

Subject: (Native American) Indian Peace medals

Jones, E. Alfred

1933

[Pwllheli, N. Wales]

January 13
1933.

TOWER HOTEL,
Pwllheli,
N. WALES.

Great Britain

Dear Sir,

Would you be kind enough to inform me whether you have a specimen of the silver medals sent by General Jeffrey Amherst in 1761 to Sir William Johnson, Superintendent of the Indians in New York province, for distribution among the Chiefs of the loyal Indians?

It would probably have the name of the Chief engraved upon it.

And have you any medals stamped with the mark of the New York medallist,

(DCF)

With Compliments

Yours very truly

Perhaps you know of such medals in other museums or collections in America?

E. Alfred Jones

January 27, 1933.

Mr. E. Alfred Jones
Tower Hotel
Pwllheli
N. Wales,
Great Britain.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your favor of January 13th, we do not know just which medal General Amherst sent to Sir Wm. Johnson. We have a number of these Indian medals:

1. Medal of George II, Royal Arms with supporters on back, size 1-7/8 inches, said to have been one of thirty Sir Danvers Osborne, Governor of New York, in 1753 brought from England for presents to the six nations.

2. George II, 1757, both lead and silver medals made in Pennsylvania by the Friendly Association for Preserving Peace with the Indians. This shows a scene with a white man and an Indian seated exchanging pipe of Peace, size - 1-3/4 inches.

3. George III and Charlotte, busts facing; reverse - arms, size 1 1/2 inches, said to have been brought over about 1761.

4. We also have several of what is known as the Hungry Wolf Medal, showing a lion and wolf and church in the distance, size 2-3/8 inches. We have these in solid silver, hollow silver shell and pewter. We understand these were given in the Pontiac Rebellion of 1763, but as they seem to be common or proportionately so and come both solid and shell we are inclined to think these were distributed on various occasions. Possibly this is the one you refer to. None that we have seen have any name engraved on them.

5. We have the small size solid, 2-3/4 inches wide of the Happy White United medal dated 1764. This is the one that has the King, and pipe above the medal. The back of this is stamped DCF, (Daniel Christian Fuerter of New York.) The large size three inch specimen is in the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, Massachusetts. The medal also comes dated 1766. We have a copy of this in small size 2 1/4 inches silver shell but without the initials stamped in on the back. This one was formerly owned by W. W. C. Wilson of Montreal. There was a large size of this dated 1776 in the Hunter collection sold at Philadelphia some years ago. This medal went to England. This Happy White United medal was evidently made first for Florida Indians and then made and sent to Sir William Johnson At Niagara. It may be of interest to you to have the following extracts that I gleaned a few years ago from the papers of Sir William Johnson:

The papers of Sir William Johnson - Vol. IV

The Univ. of the State of New York, 1925

P. 447 In letter from Gen'l Thos. Gage,
New York, June 10, 1764.

*****I am afraid the medals can't be got ready by the time you desire. I have been these two months getting a Dye made for Medals, to send to the Southward. I believe it is now finished.

"The reverse is not the King's Arms, but represents an Englishman and an Indian in Friendly Conversation. I suppose these would do for you as well as the old Pattern. Imagine when the Dye is once made that it can't take much time to run the Medals. They are larger than yours, and I will see what can be done for you immediately.

To Sir Wm. Johnson Bart."

P. 453. From Thos. Gage, New York, June 26, 1764.

"Dear Sir.

Mr. Watkins, a volunteer setting out from hence to join the arm under the command of Col. Bradstreet, I profit of that occasion to send you the 60 medals I mentioned in letter of the 24th Inst. to have struck off agreeable to your desire. The mould was made for medals for the Indians in Florida &c. and tho' not quite as large again as that you sent to me I fancy it will answer well enough. I cannot say much for the workmanship of them nevertheless they are finished by the best hand that could be found here.

I am, with great regard

Dear Sir

Your most ob'dt
Humble Servant

(Signed) THO'S GAGE

Sir Wm. Johnson Bart."

P. 482. From Thomas Gage, New York, July 13, 1764.

*****Mr. Watkins an Ensign of the 30th carried the medals from hence some ago, and should have nearly joined you by this time

(Signed) THOS. GAGE.

Sir. Wm. Johnson Bart. Niagara

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January 27, 1933.

6. Then we have a number of the George III medals, three inches or a trifle over, with Royal Arms on the back. These we have assigned to the period of the American Revolution. We also have one $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches. We also have a very small one said to have been distributed by Gov. Simco in 1794. None of the medals we have have the names of any Indians on them.

I think you can get further information from Louis A. Renaud, 747 Irene Street, Montreal, Canada, who for a number of years has been collecting data on Indian Peace Medals. I beg to remain

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

Oxford & Cambridge Club
Park Mall
London.

S.W. 1.

~~TOWER HOTEL,
PARK MALL,
N. WALES.~~

February 6th.

Dear Mr. Howland Wood,

I am most grateful to you for your long and full answer to my enquiries concerning the Indian Chiefs medals and for the additional information.

I am told by a London correspondent that a medal of the "Happy While United" series, dated 1766, was catalogued as unique when sold some time ago. This was probably the one sold in the Hunter collection which you mention. I wonder if this can be the actual medal illustration in Dr. Arthur Woodward's article in the current Bulletin of the Fort Ticonderoga Museum? I have just written to him about it.

I will write, as you suggest, to Mr. Louis A. Renaud at Montreal.

Once more, very many thanks.

Yours very truly,

E. Alfred Jones